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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 02864 130622Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 PC-01 AID-05 /082 W
----------116420 130625Z /23/64
R 120802Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3117
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU GQTEW

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT EO LINE AND TAGS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GH, UR
SUBJ: GHANA AND USSR SIGN SCHOLARSHIP PACT

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, AN EIGHT-MEMBER SOVIET FRIEND-SHIP SOCIETY DELEGATION ARRIVED ACCRA APRIL 4 TO CONCLUDE A TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH ITS GHANAIAN COUNTERPART, THE GHANA-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. DELEGATION, LED BY E. SARKISOV, VICE PRESIDENT OF UNION OF SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, ALSO PARTICIPATED IN 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS HONORING TOLSTOY. (A FOUR-DAY MEETING OF SOVIET CULTURAL ATTACHES IN WEST AFRICA ALSO OPENED IN ACCRA APRIL 7 AS PART OF CELEBRATIONS.)

2. AGREEMENT ITSELF, SIGNED APRIL 7 BY GHANA-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WIT ITS TWO SOVIET COUNTERPARTS-- UNION OF SOVIET SOCIETIES FOR FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL RELATION S WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND SOVIET ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA -- PROVIDES FOR 25 SCHOLARSHIPS IN VARIOUS SUBJECTS. AGREEMENT WAS
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PAGE 02 ACCRA 02864 130622Z

SIGNED FOR USSR BY SARKISOV AND FOR GHANA BY DR. AUGUSTINE BALIMU ADDA, NAVROPIO (CHIEF OF NAVRONGO AREA IN NORTHERN GHANA), IN HIS CAPCITY AS PRESIDENT OF GHANA-USSR FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.

3. SPEAKING AT SIGNING CEREMONY, SARKISOV MENTIONED THAT IN COOPERATION WITH SOVIET LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, TWO GHANAIAN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

LAWYERS (NOT IDENTIFIED) WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW IN SEPTEMBER 1978. HE ADDED THAT THE 25 SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE INCREASED IF THEY ARE FULLY USED. REPLYING, DR. ADDA EXPRESSED HIS THANKS AND ASKED FOR SOVIET SCIENCE TEACHERS FOR GHANAIAN SCHOOLS AND FOR SOVIET FARM MACHINERY.

4. SOVIET DELEGATION THEN CALLED ON HEAD OF STATE GEN I.K. ACHEAMPONG. IN HIS REMPAKS, ACHEAMPONG NOTED RELATIONS BETWEEN GHANA AND USSR HAD BEEN EXCELLENT SINCE 1972 (WHEN HE CAME TO POWER IN A COUP) AND COMMENDED USSR FOR REHIBILATING A NUMBER OF ITS AID PROJECTS IN GHANA, WHICH HAD BEEN ABANDONED AFTER FALL OF NKRUMAH IN 1966.

5. COMMENT: GHANA HAS HAD A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH USSR ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS SINCE AT LEAST 1970. SCHOLARSHIP PACT BETWEEN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES IS NOT A NEW DEVELOPMENT AND IS PROBABLY SEEN AS HELPING IMPLEMENT OVERALL AGREEMENT. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) HERE TELLS US THAT PACT GOT PRESS PLAY THIS WEEK CHIEFLY BECAUSE SOVIET CULTURAL ATTACHES WERE IN ACCRA AT SAME TIME FOR THEIR FOUR-DAY MEETING; OTHERWISE, IT MIGHT HAVE PASSED UNHERALED. MFA ALSO SAYS THAT CANDI-DATES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS MUST BE APPROVED BY GOG'S SCHOLAR-SHIP SECRETARIAT (WHICH REGULATES PLACEMENT OF GHANAIAN STUDENTS IN LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND ABROAD), RATHER THAN
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NEEDING ONLY BLESSING OF FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY BEFORE THEY GO OFF TO SCHOOL IN USSR. DR. ADDA IS A WELL-KNOWN CHEIF AND SUCCESSFUL FARMER IN THE UPPER REGION. HE COOPERATES CLOSELY WITH SOVIETS HERE (HE STUDIED SOIL SCIENCE AT TIMIRYAZEV AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, MOSCOW, FROM 1961 TO ABOUT 1967 AND IS MARRIED TO A SOVIET CITIZEN), BUT IS ALSO ON GOOD TERMS WITH GOG AND USG. HIS DUTIES AS PRESI-DENT OF GHANA/USSR FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ARE LARGELY CEREMONIAL.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOODWILL VISITS, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES, EDUCATION GRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ACCRA02864
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-1209, D780158-0502
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780467/aaaacezs.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 158c61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2999605
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHANA AND USSR SIGN SCHOLARSHIP PACT
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, SEDU, SOPN, GH, UR, (SARKISOV, E), (ADDA, AUGUSTINE BALIMU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/158c61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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